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Book Review

Forensic Cardiovascular Medicine, Basil RuDusky. CRC Press, 2009. Price \$99.95, USBN: 978140094312

This short book is nicely written, but the intended audience is anyone's guess. Certainly not forensic pathologists, who already possess more knowledge than is conveyed in this short tome, and not forensic toxicologists either, as only rudimentary concepts are presented, and even then not very completely. Rather, the book seems to have been written for novice medico-legal experts embarking on their first case. The book is comprised of 18 chapters, some better than others. Each section is devoted to a different type of cardiovascular disease, highlighting possible errors and omissions that might lead to litigation. Some of the chapters are very weak. The discussion of QT interval prolongation, one of the more important issues in cardiac pharmacology is only one page long, and inaccurate and the section on EKG interpretation too short to be of any value. Methadone is said to cause QT prolongation in

overdose when, in fact it can introduce QT changes even at low doses. Arsenic is discussed without any mention that it binds to the hERG channel and may induce torsades de pointes. Two pages are devoted to EKG interpretation, something one would think that physicians could already do. The problem of *commotio cordis*, a cause of death that is almost always litigated, is never even mentioned in the book, let alone the chapter devoted to "Cardiac Trauma." This text may be of some value to physicians and nurse in training, if only to remind them things can and do go wrong.

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